TELEVISION'S TOP-RANKING EXPOSÉS

RACKET SQUAD

Nº 11

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

GAIN MORE WEIGHT IN 10 DAYS OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

SKINNY

MEN ARE OFTEN ASHAMED TO STRIP FOR SPORTS OR FOR A SWIM!

GIRLS ARE NOT ALLURING AND DON'T HAVE EYE-CATCHING CURVES!

CHILDREN WHO WON'T EAT AND ARE UNDERWEIGHT, OFTEN CALLED SKINNY!

Now at last More-Wate plan that puts firm, attractive pounds and inches on your body, chest, arms and legs.

Amazing New Way developed by modern medical science to put on weight on lean bodies. **Guaranteed** to give you up to an **extra pound a day!** Or **your money back!** Why should you dread going to parties and socials, simply because you look scrawny and spindly? Why ever feel self-conscious about your body again? If you're **underweight*** . . . or just a little on the thin side, due to faulty appetite, or bad dietary habits, you can **put on up to a pound a day** of **attractive weight** without exercise . . . dangerous drugs . . . or special diet . . . and more quickly, more easily than you ever dreamed possible . . . with MORE-WATE. MORE-WATE contains no dangerous drugs . . . you **eat it like candy!** Yet . . . if you were to have this same prescription compounded to your order, it would cost you many times more. However, through this introductory offer, you can obtain **4-way** MORE-WATE tablets . . . a full 10 days' supply . . . for just $1.00 or a 30 day supply for only $2.98, plus a 10 day supply free, with an absolute money-back guarantee! Yes, try MORE-WATE for TEN DAYS . . . and if not entirely delighted with weight gained, return the unused supply for full refund! You've nothing to lose . . . and **weight to gain!** Act now! Stop being the guy or the gal that everyone calls "skinny." Stop being the guy or the gal who dreads summer and going to parties and socials because it means everyone will enjoy themselves and you won't. Don't be a wallflower, because you have a figure like a broomstick! **Gain more weight!**

10-DAY SUPPLY ONLY $1.

The 4-way MORE-WATE tablets are **unconditionally guaranteed** to put on weight . . . or it doesn't cost you a penny! MORE-WATE is a **delicious,** full strength, 4-way tablet . . . that combines not just one . . . or two . . . but 4 of the most **amazing aids for gaining weight** known to medical science. MORE-WATE is not a liquid . . . not a powder. It's delicious, **pleasant-tasting tablet!** It contains vitamin **B-12** . . . the **amazing red vitamin doctors** give many **underweight patients in hospitals** . . . It contains Iron that helps correct iron deficiency, anemia and builds rich, red blood. It contains appetite-building vitamin B-1 . . . and it contains nutritious easily assimilated malt, the amazing ingredient that helps your body turn much of the food you eat into **well rounded flesh** instead of being wasted. **That's the secret of putting on weight.** Now you can help your food to **add new pounds** to your **arms, chest, hips, thighs,** and **legs.** Now you don't have to be skinny . . . or afraid to be seen socially and be ashamed of your figure! **You must achieve the figure you want . . . or don't pay anything.** Act now!

Not one child yet has failed to go for and ask for more MORE-WATE tablets! Stop worrying about children not eating enough, give them MORE-WATE tablets—it stimulates their appetite . . . they eat it like candy!

SENSATIONAL 10-DAY TEST!

Mail the coupon now! Test the amazing MORE-WATE tablet plan for 10 days at our expense. If after 10 days your friends, your mirror and your scale do not tell you that you have gained weight and look better you pay nothing!

MAIL THIS NO RISK TRIAL COUPON NOW!

MORE-WATE CO., Dept. 248
318 Market Street, Newark, N. J.
Just mail us your name and address, and $1.00 cash, check or money order. You will receive a 10 day supply of MORE-WATE tablets and plan, postage prepaid.

☐ Send me 30 day supply plus an extra 10 day supply (that's a 40 day supply) for $2.98. I understand that if I am not delighted with MORE-WATE tablets and plan, I can return the 30 day supply in 10 days for full purchase price refund, and keep the 10 day supply without charge.

NAME.....ADDRESS.....

CITY.....STATE.....

SENT ON APPROVAL—MAKE AMAZING 10-DAY TEST

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION Volume 1, Number 11 May-June, 1954
Published bimonthly by Charlton Comics Group. Executive offices and office of publication Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Derby, Conn. Price per copy 10c. Subscription 12 issues $1.20. Copyright 1954 by Charlton Comics Group. Designed by Al Fago Studios. Printed in the U.S.A.

RACKET SQUAD

The following outstanding magazines are easily identified on their covers by the words A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

ATOMIC MOUSE ★ COWBOY WESTERN HEROES ★ CRIME AND JUSTICE ★ FUNNY ANIMALS
EH! dig this crazy comic ★ HAUNTED ★ HOT RODS AND RACING CARS ★ ZOO FUNNIES
LASH LARUE WESTERN ★ ROCKY LANE WESTERN ★ RACKET SQUAD ★ SIX-GUN HEROES
ROMANTIC STORY ★ *SCIENCE-FICTION SPACE ADVENTURES* ★ *STRANGE SUSPENSE STORIES*
SWEETHEARTS ★ TEX RITTER WESTERN ★ TRUE LIFE SECRETS ★ TV TEENS ★ THE THING

Every effort is made to insure that these comic magazines contain the highest quality of wholesome entertainment.

EVERY YEAR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS MUST WRITE AN ACCOUNTING OF THEIR INCOMES. LIKE DEATH AND POLITICS, INCOME TAXES ARE ALWAYS WITH US. THE GOVERNMENT IS A FRIEND AND ALLY TO MILLIONS--- ALWAYS TRYING TO HELP. BUT FOR SOME, IT WAGES AN EVER-CONSTANT WAR TO CRUSH THE RACKETEERS WHO TRY TO CHEAT THE GOVERNMENT. HERE IS A TYPICAL CASE I CALL THE...

Case of the INCOME TAX FRAUDS

TOUGH LUCK, BOYS! THIS POT HAPPENS TO BE MINE! GUESS THIS BREAKS UP THE GAME! I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO GET EVEN ON SOME OTHER NIGHT! RIGHT NOW, I GOTTA GET HOME TO THE LITTLE WOMAN!

LIKE MOST WINNERS IN CARD GAMES, JIM WATSON FELT PRETTY GOOD. AND ORDINARILY, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN THE USUAL ENDING...A POKER-PLAYER SNEAKING HOME TO HIS WIFE. BUT ON THIS PARTICULAR NIGHT, TWO MEN HAD BEEN JIM'S CONSTANT WITNESSES EVEN AS HE WALKED THROUGH THE STREETS...

I HAVEN'T GOT A CARE IN THE WORLD...LA... LADE...DA...

GET BACK, LORRENS HE'LL SEE US!

NAW! HE'S TOO BUSY COUNTIN' HIS GREENBACKS TO BOTHER ABOUT US! WELL---ARE YOU SATISFIED?

YEAH. WE'LL START WORK ON HIM TOMORROW...!

RACKET SQUAD

AND THE NEXT MORNING, AT JIM WATSON'S HOUSE...

GET SET! THIS IS IT!

KNOCK KNOCK

I'M MRS. WATSON. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

WE'RE FROM THE INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT! — FEDERAL AGENTS, MRS. WATSON. WE'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU!

JIM--MR. WATSON IS AT HIS OFFICE. PERHAPS I COULD PHONE HIM?

NO---THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, MA'AM. WE HAVE A MAN WITH HIM ALREADY, OVER THERE. WE'D LIKE TO CHECK OVER HIS RECORDS RIGHT HERE--IF YOU DON'T MIND.

OF COURSE! HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED? I MEAN---JIM HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG, I'M SURE OF IT!

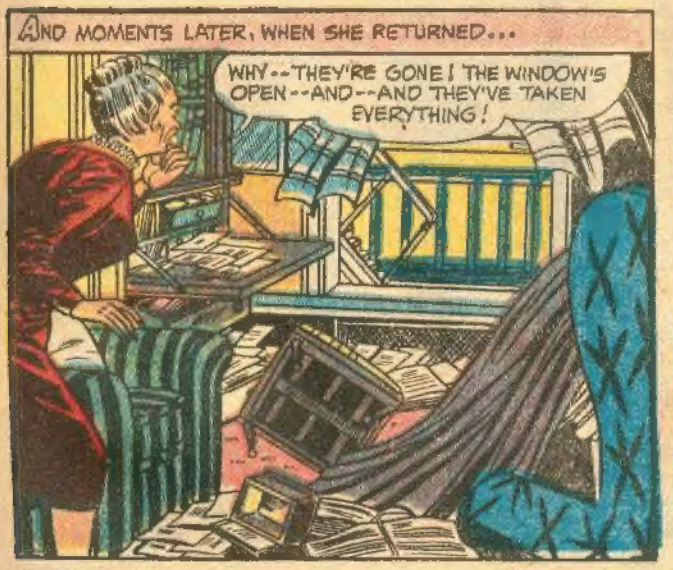
PLEASE, OPEN THAT DESK, MRS. WATSON. HE HASN'T REPORTED HIS WINNINGS TO THE GOVERNMENT! WE HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE YOUR HUSBAND GOES NIGHTS!

BUT I THOUGHT THAT WAS HARMLESS--JIM HARDLY EVER WINS! OH--THE PHONE!

WE WON'T TAKE UP YOUR TIME TOO MUCH, MRS. WATSON. PLEASE GO ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS. THIS IS STRICTLY ROUTINE.

BRNNG BRRNNG

WHY, THAT'S FUNNY! NO ONE'S ON THE OTHER END OF THE LINE---!


AND MOMENTS LATER, WHEN SHE RETURNED...
WHY--THEY'RE GONE! THE WINDOW'S OPEN--AND--AND THEY'VE TAKEN EVERYTHING!

THEY TOOK THE MONEY OUT OF THE CIGAR-BOX. THE PHONE CALL WAS PLANNED! THEY TOOK-- ALL MY JEWELS--AND ALL THE CHECKS IN THE DESK DRAWER! WE'VE BEEN ROBBED!

IT WAS AT THIS POINT THAT THE COUPLE CAME TO ME. THEIR TESTIMONY GIVEN, AND DULY RECORDED BY MY SECRETARY, I FACED THEM, TRYING TO MAKE THEIR WORRY SMALLER...
IF YOU HAD DEPOSITED YOUR EARNINGS AND REPORTED THEM IN YOUR INCOME TAX INSTEAD OF HOARDING THEM IN YOUR HOUSE, THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED! WE'LL PUT A TRACER CHECK ON EVERY PERSON ANSWERING THEIR DESCRIPTION! WE'LL LET YOU KNOW!

MEANWHILE, IN THE HIDEOUT OF THE TWO BOGUS INCOME TAX AGENTS!
I TOLD YOU IT WOULD BE A SNAP, PETE. WE GOT CLOSE TO TWO GRAND.
YEAH, LORRENS. THAT'S ABOUT A GRAND FOR EACH OF US! BUT I GOT BIGGER IDEAS!

ONE WEEK LATER, IN THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE SECOND LARGEST DEPARTMENT STORE IN THE CITY...
BUT THIS IS HIGHLY IRREGULAR, GENTLEMEN! WE HAVE MONTHLY CHECKED ACCOUNTS! OUR OFFICE IS CLOSED TODAY!
OPEN IT! OR DO YOU WANT US TO COME BACK WITH A SUBPOENA?

NO---OF COURSE NOT! HERE ARE THE MONTHLY RECEIPTS AS WELL, GENTLEMEN! DO YOU WANT ME TO OPEN THE SAFE? WE HAVEN'T TABULATED OUR CASH SALES!
YES---AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, BRING IN ALL THE AVAILABLE CASH IN YOUR TILLS! THIS IS A SPOT CHECK!

RACKET SQUAD

HERE--WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THAT MONEY BELONGS TO THE STORE! WHAT KIND OF INCOME TAX AGENTS ARE YOU, ANYWAY?

WE'RE THE KIND THAT TAKE THE DOUGH BACK TO OUR OFFICES AND COUNT IT!

ANY OBJECTIONS?

URGHH!

CRRASHH!

AND SWIFT MOMENTS LATER, AS THE TWO MADE THEIR WAY OUT OF THE STORE AND INTO THEIR GETAWAY CAR...

STOP THEM! POLICE!

STEP ON IT, LORRENS! WE GOT A COUPLE O' SOUR APPLES BACK THERE YELLIN' THEIR HEADS OFF! HA, HA!...

THE TWO HAD STRUCK AGAIN! THE REPORTS STARTED COMING INTO MY OFFICE WITH REGULARITY. A LIQUOR SHOP, A FACTORY, TWO BUSINESS-OFFICES. WE STARTED CLOSING IN...

PUT OUT A DRAGNET FOR THE PAIR. THEY USE A GREY SEDAN---LAST YEAR'S MODEL. ALERT ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES!

YES, SIR!

AND IN THEIR HIDEOUT SOMEWHERE IN TOWN, THE TWO BOGUS AGENTS WERE PLANNING THEIR LAST HAUL...

I'M FOR CHUCKIN' THIS LAST JOB, LORRENS. WE GOT ENOUGH HERE TO LIVE EASY FOR THE REST O' OUR LIVES IN SOUTH AMERICA!

ONE MORE JOB, BOY. THIS SHOULD BE EASY PICKINGS. A SECOND STORY OFFICE ON ELM STREET.

TWO DAYS AFTERWARDS, THEY MADE THEIR PITCH...

YOU SURE THIS IS OKAY?

STOP GETTIN JUMPY, GUY! WE BEEN DOIN' ALL RIGHT ON THE *OTHER* JOBS, HAVEN'T WE? THEN RELAX. THIS IS ONE OFFICE... PLENTY O' PEOPLE WORK THERE. I'VE BEEN WATCHIN' THIS PLACE! C'MON, LET'S SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

RACKET SQUAD

AND AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT---THEY PICKED ON THE WRONG PLACE!
C'MON, BABY! OPEN UP! WE'RE FROM THE INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT!
IS THIS SOME SORT OF A JOKE?

WE NEVER JOKE, MA'AM. OPEN UP, I SAID! WE WANT TO CHECK YOUR BOOKS!
STOP THESE TWO! THEY'RE PHONY!
WHAT THE--! THE ALARM! SCRAM OUTTA HERE!
CLANG
CLANG

THEY FOUND OUT RIGHT AWAY! WHAT'S HAPPENING? C'MON, LORRENS! THINGS AIN'T HEALTHY ANYMORE!
NOT BEFORE I GIVE THESE NOSEY RATS A TASTE O' THEIR OWN MEDICINE!
BLAM
BLAM

AND WHEN THEY HAD REACHED THEIR CAR PARKED OUTSIDE...
STOP---IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!
GET GOIN'! HURRY!
I DON'T GET IT! I DON'T GET IT AT ALL! HOW DID THEY KNOW? HOW?
BLAM
BLAM

BUT PETE'S QUESTIONS WENT UNANSWERED AS THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW REACHED OUT AFTER THEM...
FASTER! FASTER! THEY GOT THE WHOLE POLICE FORCE AFTER US!
OOOOOWHEOEO
EEEEEEEE
789789

...FOR THE ALARM HAD COME STRAIGHT TO MY OFFICE. AND ALREADY MY MEN WERE WORKING WITH THE UNIFORMED POLICE-OFFICERS IN PURSUING THE GETAWAY CAR...
CARS 27 AND 93--CUT EAST ON MASON AND DIVERT TRAFFIC AWAY FROM THE SUSPECT VEHICLE! WE ARE ON THEIR TRAIL!
5

RACKET SQUAD

AND UNKNOWN TO THE TWO CON-MEN, OTHER POLICE-OFFICERS WERE DETOURING THE REGULAR SIGN ROUTE TO AN UNFINISHED SECTION OF HIGHWAY LEADING ONTO A HIGH VIADUCT...

VROOOOOMMMM

OKAY, BOYS! GET OUT OF SIGHT! HERE THEY COME!

THEY'RE NOT GOING TO STOP! THEY'RE HEADING ONTO THE VIADUCT!

QUICK! RADIO CAPTAIN BRADDOCK! THEY'RE HEADED FOR A CRASH!

CRRAASHHHH!

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE SPEEDING GETAWAY CAR...

SLOW DOWN, LORRENS! WE'LL NEVER MAKE THAT OTHER SIDE!

NUTS TO THAT! WE'LL MAKE IT ALL RIGHT! ALL I GOTTA DO IS GUN HER UP SOME MORE! THE MOMENTUM'LL CARRY US RIGHT OVER THAT SPACE! HERE GOES!

BUT LORRENS CONFIDENCE IS SHORT-LIVED, FOR---AS THE SEDAN ROARED THROUGH THE AIR---

BBADABBLAM

SECONDS LATER, MY MEN AND I HAD REACHED THE VIADUCT...

THAT'S THE END OF THEM, SIR. THEY TOOK A CHANCE AND DIDN'T MAKE IT!

THEY *NEVER* DO, SERGEANT! THESE TWO WERE TOO SMART FOR THEIR OWN GOOD!

THEY ROBBED AND LIED THEIR WAY INTO ALMOST EVERY IMPORTANT BUSINESS FIRM IN THE CITY. AND THEY WERE PRETTY SHREWD. BUT THE ONE STUPID ERROR THEY MADE, WAS TO PICK THE *REAL* INTERNAL REVENUE OFFICE AS THEIR LAST JOB! AND GREED COST THEM THEIR LIVES!

The End

SID GLEASON WAS AS DEFT AT CHANGING THE APPEARANCE OF A RACEHORSE AS THE MOST SKILLED MAKE-UP EXPERT IS AT ALTERING AN ACTOR'S IDENTITY. HE WAS **SO** GOOD, IN FACT, THAT HIS ASTONISHING SUCCESS LED TO THE COLLAPSE OF AN INGENIOUS RACKET---THE SWINDLE WHICH GAVE HIM THE NICKNAME...

Botticelli OF THE BANGTAILS!

YOU'RE A REAL GENIUS, SID...A REGULAR REMBRANDT AT PAINTING A HORSE TO MAKE HIM LOOK LIKE WHAT HE AIN'T!

A COUPLA MORE STROKES OF THE BRUSH AND WE'LL HAVE *TWO* NATIVE LANCERS! THEN WE'LL HAVE US A MILLION DOLLAR RUNNER FOR A DOLLAR'S WORTH OF PAINT!

I WAS AT THE RACE-TRACK WITH STEVE PRYOR, MY ASSISTANT, INVESTIGATING A CHARGE OF "DOPING" WHEN THE WHOLE THING STARTED. IT WAS THE 6TH RACE-

C'MON, BLUE BELL...WE GOT 5G'S ON THAT CRUMMY NOSE OF YOURS!

THAT LOUSY NAG YOU TOUTED ME ON...HE'S RUNNING *FOURTH!* I THOUGHT YOU TOLD ME THIS RACE WAS IN THE BAG...

I-I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, MANNY! THE FEED-BOX RUMOR SAID IT WAS ALL SET FOR BLUEBELL TO WIN IN A ROMP!

RACKET SQUAD

YOU AND YOUR SURE-THINGS... THAT PLUG FINISHED OUTTA THE MONEY! $5,000 DOWN THE DRAIN... BAH!

B-BUT THE BOYS TOLD ME BLUE BELL COULDN'T LOSE, BOSS! HE WAS GOING GREAT GUNS IN MORNING TRIALS AND...

LOSE A RACE, MANNY?

HUH...OH, INSPECTOR O'MALLEY! I...HEH HEH ...I GUESS WE ALL HAFTA LOSE ONCE IN AWHILE, DON'T WE? BUT I BELIEVE IN TAKING IT WITH A GRIN... EASY COME, EASY GO, I ALWAYS SAY!

IT'S NOT LIKE MANNY SHERMAN TO BE SO GAY ABOUT DROPPING A BUNDLE ON THE BANGTAILS. I WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO HERE AT THE TRACK?

PROBABLY TRYING TO MAKE A FAST-KILLING SINCE COMING OUT OF THE FEDERAL PEN LAST WEEK! WORTH KEEPING AN EYE ON HIM AND HIS MUSCLE-BOUND STOOGE!

BUT THE CASE WHICH BROUGHT STEVE PRYOR AND ME TO THE TRACK HAD TO BE HANDLED FIRST, AND SO MANNY SHERMAN AND HIS SIDEKICK WERE ABLE TO ELUDE US MOMENTARILY...

LOOKA THAT GOON OVER THERE, BOSS! HE'S PAINTING A PITCHER OF ONE OF THE NAGS...

SURE LOOKS LIKE THAT OAT BURNER, DON'T IT? BE GREAT IF WE COULD HIRE A GUY LIKE THIS TO PAINT SPEED INTO THE HORSES WE BET ON...

HMMM...GIVES ME AN IDEA. ASK THE GENTLEMAN TO JOIN ME AT THE CAR, TRIG!

THE BOSS WANTS TO SEE YOU, JUNIOR! LET'S PACK UP YOUR TOYS AND TODDLE OVER!

H-HEY...T-TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME, YOU GORILLA! YOU GOT NO RIGHT TO SHOVE ME AROUND!

RACKET SQUAD

RIGHT? WHO NEEDS A RIGHT ON A PUNK LIKE YOU? MY LEFT IS GOOD ENOUGH...

L-LEAVE ME ALONE BEFORE I CALL THE POLI..... UNGGG!

SLAP

THAT'S A GOOD BOY... JUST HOLD YOUR BREATH AND YOU'LL KEEP OUTTA TROUBLE. THERE'S THE BOSS, WAITING TO MAKE WITH THE TALK. AND REMEMBER ...WHEN HE SPEAKS, YOU JUST SHUT UP AND LISSEN!

A-ALL RIGHT! D-DO YOU HAVE TO WRENCH MY ARM OFF?.. I'M GOING!

W-WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? THIS MONSTER STARTS MOLESTING ME AND...

TRIG DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM, FRIEND... IT'S JUST THAT BONES START POPPING WHEN HE GETS EXCITED! HERE...LET ME HELP YOU GET BACK INTO ONE PIECE!

THAT PAINTING YOU JUST DID...PRETTY GOOD. YOU MAKE MUCH DOUGH DOING PORTRAITS OF BANGTAILS?

W-WHY...NO. ALL I CAN POSSIBLY GET IS $50... IF THE OWNER WANTS IT. W-WHAT MAKES YOU ASK?

I GOT AN IDEA THAT'LL GET YOU THOUSANDS... AND YOU'LL STILL BE WORKING ON NAGS! HELP OUR GUEST INTO THE CAR, TRIG...

SURE THING, MANNY! N YOU GO, PAL!

I LOST A BUNDLE BY BETTING ON HORSES THAT LOOKED FAST! BUT WITH THAT BRUSH OF YOURS I THINK WE CAN MAKE A HORSE WHAT HE AIN'T! FOLLOW ME?

I-I'M NOT SURE!

RACKET SQUAD

I'LL PUT IT IN SIMPLE WORDS, FRIEND. IF I BOUGHT A NAG... AND *YOU* PAINTED HIM SO THAT HE LOOKED LIKE A MUCH BETTER HORSE...IT'D BE WORTH MEBBE 5 OR 10 G'S TO YOU! CHANGING AN OAT BURNER TO LOOK LIKE *NATIVE LANCER*, FOR INSTANCE!

Y-YOU WANT ME TO *FAKE* A HORSE'S APPEAR-ANCE? I—I DON'T KNOW IF...

IF HE ISN'T INTERESTED IN OUR PLAN HE MIGHT DECIDE TO YAMMER TO THE COPS ABOUT IT! AND WE CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE THEM TIPPED OFF...

W-WAIT...I—I BEGIN TO SEE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT. SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR ME, EH? T-THAT'D BE AS MUCH AS I MAKE IN TWO YEARS...

PUT THAT UGLY HOW-ITZER AWAY, TRIG! I THINK OUR PARTNER-SHIP IS SETTLED! WE START WORK AS SOON AS WE CAN BUY US A PONY!

A WEEK LATER, AT THE VANDERGILT STABLES AT GULF LAKE PARK...

SHUT OFF THE MOTOR...AND MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MAKE MUCH NOISE! I DON'T WANT ALL THESE HORSES WAKING UP THE GROOMS...

I'LL BE AS QUIET AS A MOUSE, MANNY!

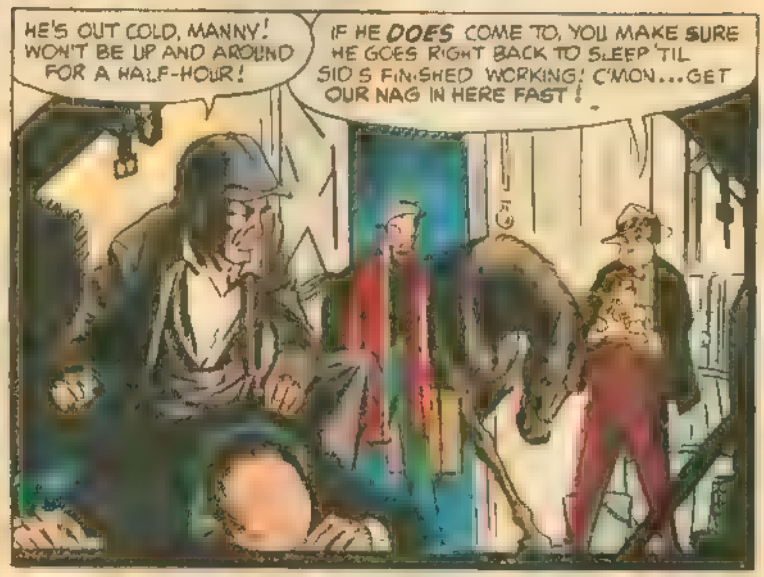
I GOT THE CAPER ALL MEMORIZED BOSS! THIS GUY WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT 'IM!

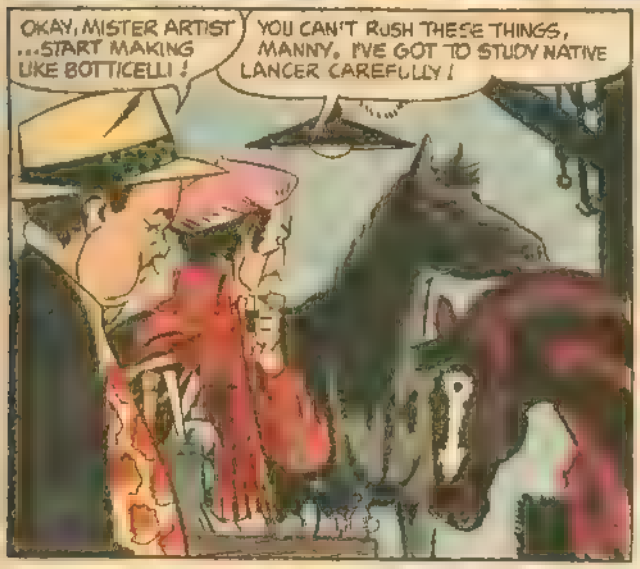
JUST MAKE SURE HE *RECOVERS*, TRIG! OKAY...GET MOVING!

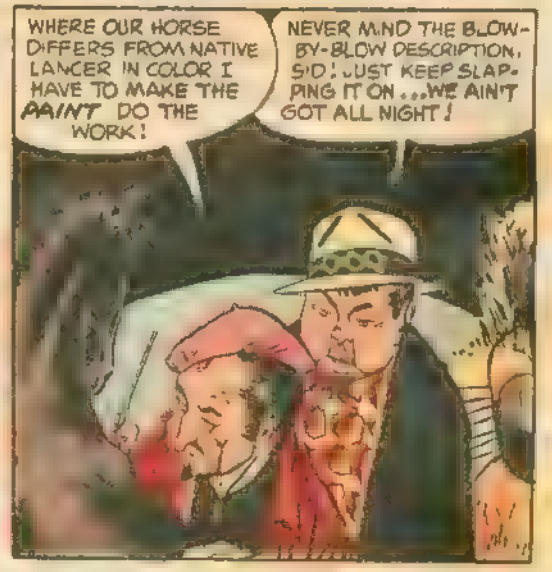
W-WHO IS IT? KIND OF LATE TO BE VISITING THE...OH!

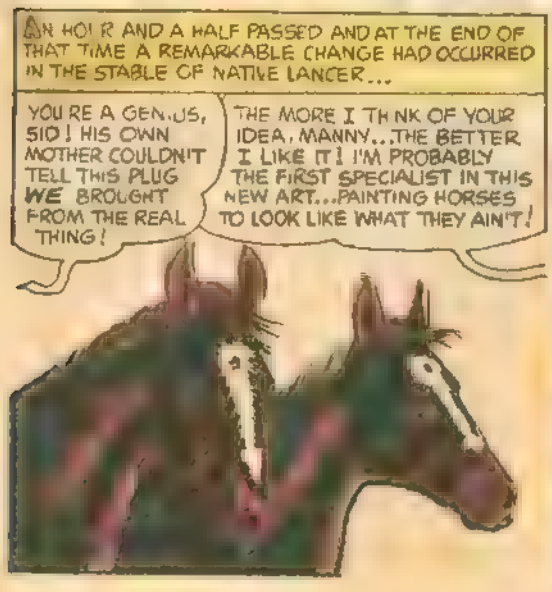
THIS IS A STICKUP! JUST KEEP YOUR MOUTH CLOSED AND NO ONE'LL GET BRUISED! HAND OVER YOUR WALLET...

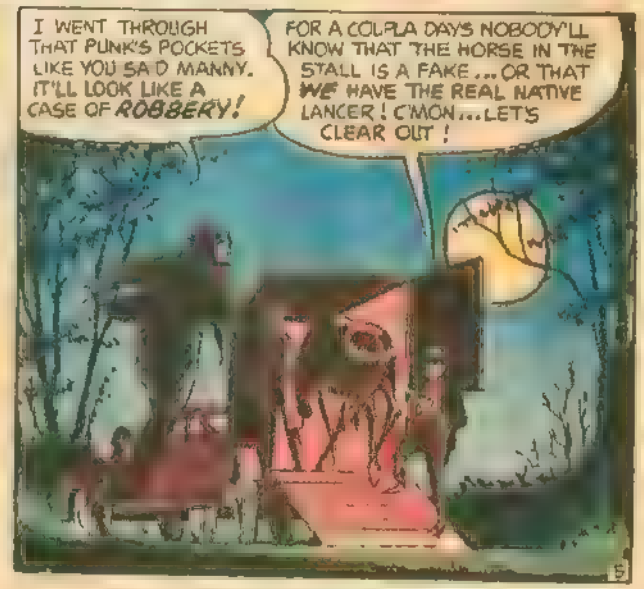
RACKET SQUAD


HE'S OUT COLD, MANNY! WON'T BE UP AND AROUND FOR A HALF-HOUR!
IF HE DOES COME TO, YOU MAKE SURE HE GOES RIGHT BACK TO SLEEP 'TIL SID'S FINISHED WORKING! C'MON... GET OUR NAG IN HERE FAST!


OKAY, MISTER ARTIST ...START MAKING LIKE BOTTICELLI!
YOU CAN'T RUSH THESE THINGS, MANNY. I'VE GOT TO STUDY NATIVE LANCER CAREFULLY!


WHERE OUR HORSE DIFFERS FROM NATIVE LANCER IN COLOR I HAVE TO MAKE THE PAINT DO THE WORK!
NEVER MIND THE BLOW-BY-BLOW DESCRIPTION, SID! JUST KEEP SLAPPING IT ON... WE AIN'T GOT ALL NIGHT!


AN HOUR AND A HALF PASSED AND AT THE END OF THAT TIME A REMARKABLE CHANGE HAD OCCURRED IN THE STABLE OF NATIVE LANCER...
YOU'RE A GENIUS, SID! HIS OWN MOTHER COULDN'T TELL THIS PLUG WE BROUGHT FROM THE REAL THING!
THE MORE I THINK OF YOUR IDEA, MANNY... THE BETTER I LIKE IT! I'M PROBABLY THE FIRST SPECIALIST IN THIS NEW ART... PAINTING HORSES TO LOOK LIKE WHAT THEY AIN'T!


I WENT THROUGH THAT PUNK'S POCKETS LIKE YOU SAID MANNY. IT'LL LOOK LIKE A CASE OF ROBBERY!
FOR A COUPLA DAYS NOBODY'LL KNOW THAT THE HORSE IN THE STALL IS A FAKE... OR THAT WE HAVE THE REAL NATIVE LANCER! C'MON... LET'S CLEAR OUT!

RACKET SQUAD

THREE DAYS LATER STEVE AND I WERE AT THE TRACK AGAIN, WRAPPING UP THE EVIDENCE IN THE DOPING CASE..

HAVEN'T LEARNED YOUR LESSON YET, MANNY? I SEE YOU'RE BETTING YOUR BANKROLL AGAIN!

I CAN'T RESIST THE TEMPTATION, INSPECTOR! BES DES NATIVE LANCER'S RUNNING IN THE DERBY TODAY... AND HE'S BOUND TO LOSE ONE OF THESE DAYS! I'M BETTING THE *FIELD AGAINST HIM!*

THE FAMOUS DERBY STARTED AND WE LOST SIGHT OF MANNY SHERMAN IN THE EXCITED CROWDS. BUT I REMEMBERED HIM BECAUSE A STRANGE THING HAPPENED...

DOWN THE HOME STRETCH THEY'RE COMING... AND NATIVE LANCER'S A BADLY BEATEN HORSE. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A ROMP FOR HIM BUT HE'S NOT ACTING LIKE HIMSELF AT ALL!

KEEP THAT MOTOR HUMMING, SID... HERE COME A COUPLA RICH MEN!

A HUNDRED GRAND... NOT A BAD AFTERNOON'S WORK! AND ALL BECAUSE NATIVE LANCER SEEMED TO HAVE LOST HIS SPEED! HEH, HEH! LET'S CLEAR OUTTA HERE BEFORE SOMEONE GETS SUSPICIOUS AND LOOKS THAT NAG OVER CLOSELY!

MANNY SHERMAN DISAPPEARED FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS, BUT HE WASN'T IDLE ...

HOW DO YOU WANT ME TO PAINT 'IM, MANNY?

JUST SO HE LOOKS LIKE ANY HORSE BUT NATIVE LANCER, SID! PAINT OVER THE MARK ON HIS FOREHEAD—THEN WE'LL ENTER HIM IN A RACE AS AN ORDINARY NAG; INSTEAD OF AS THE GREATEST THREE YEAR OLD OF THEM ALL!

THAT WRAPS UP THE JOB, MANNY.. NOT EVEN HIS OWN TRAINER WOULD RECOGNIZE THIS HORSE AS BEING NATIVE LANCER!

WE'LL NAME HIM [redacted], AFTER HIS CREATOR! AND YOU'LL ENTER HIM AT TROPICANA PARK, SID... YOU'RE HIS NEW OWNER!

WE UNCOVERED MANNY SHERMAN'S WHEREABOUTS THE NEXT DAY, AND THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY AT TROPICANA PARK...

NOBODY EVER HEARD OF *UNCLE SID* BEFORE... THE ODDS OUGHTA BE 20 TO 1 AGAINST HIM! I'M BETTING THE WHOLE BANKROLL ON HIS NOSE... HE CAN'T LOSE!

RACKET SQUAD

WE MEET AGAIN, MANNY! YOUR HORSE? I THOUGHT THE RAC NG COMM S- SION BARRED YOU FROM OWNING AN ANIMAL...
L-LO, INSPECTOR! T-THE OAT-BURNER BELONGS TO MY FRIEND HERE... MEET SID GLEASON..
LOOKS LIKE A NICE HORSE, MR GLEASON. HE'S NEW TO THE RACES, ISN'T HE?
H-HE'S JUST ROUNDED INTO FORM, INSPECT- OR. .NEVER GONE TO THE STARTING LINE BEFORE! I-I'VE GOT HIGH HOPES FOR HIM AND...THERE GOES THE BUGLE! EXCUSE US...WE HAVE TO GET TO THE POST!
IN A FEW MINUTES THE RACE STARTED, AND THE RESULTS CONFIRMED MY SUSPICIONS.
...AND UNCLE SID IS WINNING IN RECORD TIME! HE'S SIX LENGTHS AHEAD AT THE WIRE... IT'S A STUPENDOUS VICTORY FOR THIS RANK OUTSIDER WHO STARTED AT 20 TO 1! THE CROWD'S GOING WILD!
MANNY SHERMAN WAS FOLLOWED TO THE BETTING WINDOW, WHERE HE PICKED UP A FORTUNE IN LARGE BILLS. THEN...
W-WE BETTER CLEAR OUTTA HERE RIGHT AWAY ...THAT O'MALLEY MAY BE WISE TO US! GET EVERYTHING TOGETHER, TRIG...WE'LL LEAVE THE HORSE HERE!
RAP
RAP
S SEE WHO IT IS, TRIG! IF IT'S THE FLATFEET, SLAM THE DOOR IN THE R FACES...AND WE'LL SCRAM OUT THE OTHER WAY!
I GET YOU, MANNY! WE AIN'T RECEIVING THE COPS AT THE MOMENT!
ONE OF THE STEWARDS TOLD ME TO COME AND CLEAN UP, S R!
OH...IT'S JUST A SWEEPER, BOSS! HE CAN'T MAKE ANY TROUBLE FOR US!
OKAY, INSPECTOR...COME ON IN! THEY FELL FOR THAT DISGUISE LIKE A TON OF CEMENT!
IT...IT'S THE LAW! O-OF ALL THE DIRTY...

RACKET SQUAD

T-THE BACK DOOR MANNY ...RUN FOR IT!

HEAD 'IM OFF, STEVE!

K-KEEP AWAY FROM ME, YOU CHEAP SIDEWALK POUNDER! I'LL KILL BEFORE I LET MYSELF BE SHIPPED BACK UPRIVER AGAIN!

MAKE LIKE A GOPHER, STEVE! HEAVY ARTILLERY OVERHEAD!

FROM TRIG TO PRYOR TO SHERMAN...A FIRST CLASS DOUBLE-CROSS COMBINATION!

STAND BACK OR I'LL BLAST...B-BLAST...

I-I'M WARN...UNGHH!

LOOKS LIKE THE MASQUERADE IS OVER, SHERMAN...EXCEPT FOR YOU!

NO...ARGHHH!

CRACK

DISGUISING NATIVE LANCER AS AN UNKNOWN HORSE MIGHT'VE WORKED, IF HE'D JUST BARELY WON! BUT SETTING A TRACK RECORD WAS MIGHTY SUSPICIOUS. THAT...AND THE PAINT I RUBBED OFF THE ANIMAL BEFORE THE RACE...COMPLETED A PICTURE OF AN INGENIOUS RACE-TRACK SWINDLE!

The End

NOT SO DUMB

Helen Ellis looked very comfortable as she reclined on her couch. Her shoes were on the floor and she was looking at her toes.

"Bet you a hundred bucks I can wiggle any toe," she remarked to the two men seated on chairs near her. "Have I any takers?"

"Not this time, Helen," replied Joe Ward. "You said over the phone you had a perfect racket for us. Something with a new angle to it. Spill it."

Helen reached out to the box of candy on the table. Chocolates were her one great weakness. Especially the ones that covered nice red cherries.

"I got a perfect set-up for looting the houses in the suburbs. And we can make it big time. When we get finished here, we can use the same technique in every big city in this country. Now you two just give me your ears, and I'll tell you how easy it is to operate."

Hi Winslow nodded his head in agreement, and he and Joe Ward listened as Helen explained the operations.

"The great need in the suburbs is for domestic help. You need women to clean the floors, the rooms, the furniture. You need men to wash the windows. The Acme Service Agency operates in Meadow Brook and is run by an old girl chum of mine. Her name is June Travis and she's honest but not with too much brain power. I bought half an interest in her agency. We send out the girls and men to the different homes on a daily basis when needed. We use some of our boys and girls — not the ones with records. They'll spot the set-ups in each house; then we rob 'em at our leisure. We'll know just what to take and when to take the stuff. Are you with me?"

Hi Winslow stroked his chin as though he were looking for a flaw in the plan. He thought he had found it.

"Let's say we rob six houses," he began. "Then the police begin to ask questions. Compare findings. Sooner or later they will learn that every place robbed had a worker from your Acme Service Agency. Then what?"

Helen Ellis reached for another candy which she stuffed into her mouth. She could eat and talk at the same time.

"I thought about that problem, too," she replied. "So, for good measure, we rob a couple of houses where we don't work. Even if we get little loot. That ought to throw the cops off the trail."

Mrs. Ruth Harley Boumerton was very happy as she sat in her living room and talked to her friend, Mrs. Harriet Simpson Pawling.

"Harriet, I have at last found the solution to the servant problem. Just call up the Acme Service Agency any time you need extra help over the week-end. At present we are using two part-time maids and one gardener from their service. They are highly reliable and not a bit expensive. We are going away Thursday for a week to Las Vegas. Ought to have a lot of news to tell you when we come back."

It was ten at night when Mrs. Baumerton and her husband drove up to their home, which was located in a secluded section of Meadow Brook. Mr. Baumerton drove his car into the garage. Then he and his wife went to the main entrance. They entered and put on the lights. Then they walked into the living room, and Mrs. Baumerton screamed.

"Our furniture is missing!"

Not only was the furniture missing from that room, but the entire house had been cleaned out — including the contents of the wall safe. And Detective Robert Morris was in the house a half hour later, listening and figuring things out.

"Two other houses were completely cleaned out," he told the startled couple: "In addition, three houses were entered by burglars who knew when the occupants were out to parties somebody seems to know a lot about what is happening in Meadow Brook. We did make a cast of the tire tracks from the truck that was

here. I'm waiting for a report on it back at headquarters."

Captain Frank Sneed gave the news to Detective Robert Morris as the two men sat in the captain's office.

"Lou Congers of the Mover Van Association helped us with the tire identification. That particular tire tread shows that a van of the Inter-Coast City was used. We checked their records, and we even found the truck. It seems the truck was taken out of the garage with apparently no person knowing about it. Meanwhile we are setting up a watch at the garage on all trucks."

Helen Ellis was satisfied as she looked at the loot that was piled up in the warehouse she had rented under an assumed name.

"Don't call me at the office unless it is an emergency," she warned Joe Ward. "You can't tell when June Travis may walk in on me. Sure she's dumb. But there is a limit to dumbness."

"When do we sell the stuff?" asked Hi Winslow. "I could use some extra cash."

"The diamonds we got gave us enough cash," snapped back Helen Ellis. "Frances gave us a good tip. She overheard Mr. Wilbert, the 'Big-Time' Wilbert, speaking to a friend about a big deal he was going to make. He has more than a hundred-thousand dollars in cash. Keeps it in a safe behind a book-case. And Fred also gave us some information. The Herbert Wallaces are going to have a big party. Mrs. Wallace is going to wear all her diamonds. Those two jobs ought to put us on Easy Street."

Mr. Wilbert was furious as he spoke to Detective Robert Morris, who had been summoned to the scene of the robbery.

"I was away with my family for four hours," complained Mr Wilbert. "When we came back home, the safe had been opened and a small fortune taken in cash. What's wrong with the police department out here? Can't they cope with this growing crime wave?"

"We are doing our best," replied the officer. "Somebody has a lot of inside information about what takes place in the homes that are robbed."

"You better do better than that," warned Mr. Wilbert. "Or we will have a new police department and a lot of new officers."

Helen Ellis looked at the stack of bills on the table She was in high spirits.

"The cops are watching the garage to see if any of the trucks go out without an order," she told her two men. "Good thing we gave up that kind of looting. Cash and diamonds bring a better deal any time. Now for the Wallace party, and then we say farewell to this community before the cops get a break."

Seated at her desk, Helen Ellis had a simple brainstorm. It concerned a double cross. She glanced at the closed door that separated her office from her partner, June Travis. She reached for her phone and dialed a number. Joe Ward answered.

"Alone?" asked Helen Ellis.

"Not a soul in this joint but myself," was the reply.

"I can get two plane tickets for Rio," said the feminine voice. "Just for us two. And all the loot goes with us in cash and diamonds. The rest of the stuff the gang can have."

There wasn't any hesitation on the part of Joe as he answered. When finished, he sat down in a chair. If that dame was willing to double cross the rest of the gang, she would do the same to him. As for Helen Ellis, her brain was also figuring out a plan — How to get everything for herself.

Mrs. Herbert Wallace beamed with joy as she spoke to her dinner guests. Everyone who was anyone had been invited. She looked up from the table and almost screamed as she saw a masked man with a gun in his hands give the order.

"We have tied up all the help and cut the phone wires. My two assistants will make the rounds of this table and relieve you of your diamonds. Also any spare cash you might have on you. Please, no attempts at heroics."

It had been carefully planned, and twenty minutes later Joe sat down next to Helen Ellis, who was at the wheel of one of the get-away cars. Hi Winslow came up

"Mind if I ride with you? You got a fortune, and maybe something might go wrong."

"Something has gone wrong," announced the unexpected voice of Detective Robert Morris. "Don't move for your guns or you will be shot down. My men have their submachine guns trained on you."

When rats are cornered they will squeal to try to get a break. When Helen Ellis wanted to know how she was caught, Detective Robert Morris merely remarked.

"You ate too much candy. Dropped the papers wherever you went. Simple, eh?"

June Travis was happy as she sat next to Detective Robert Morris in his car.

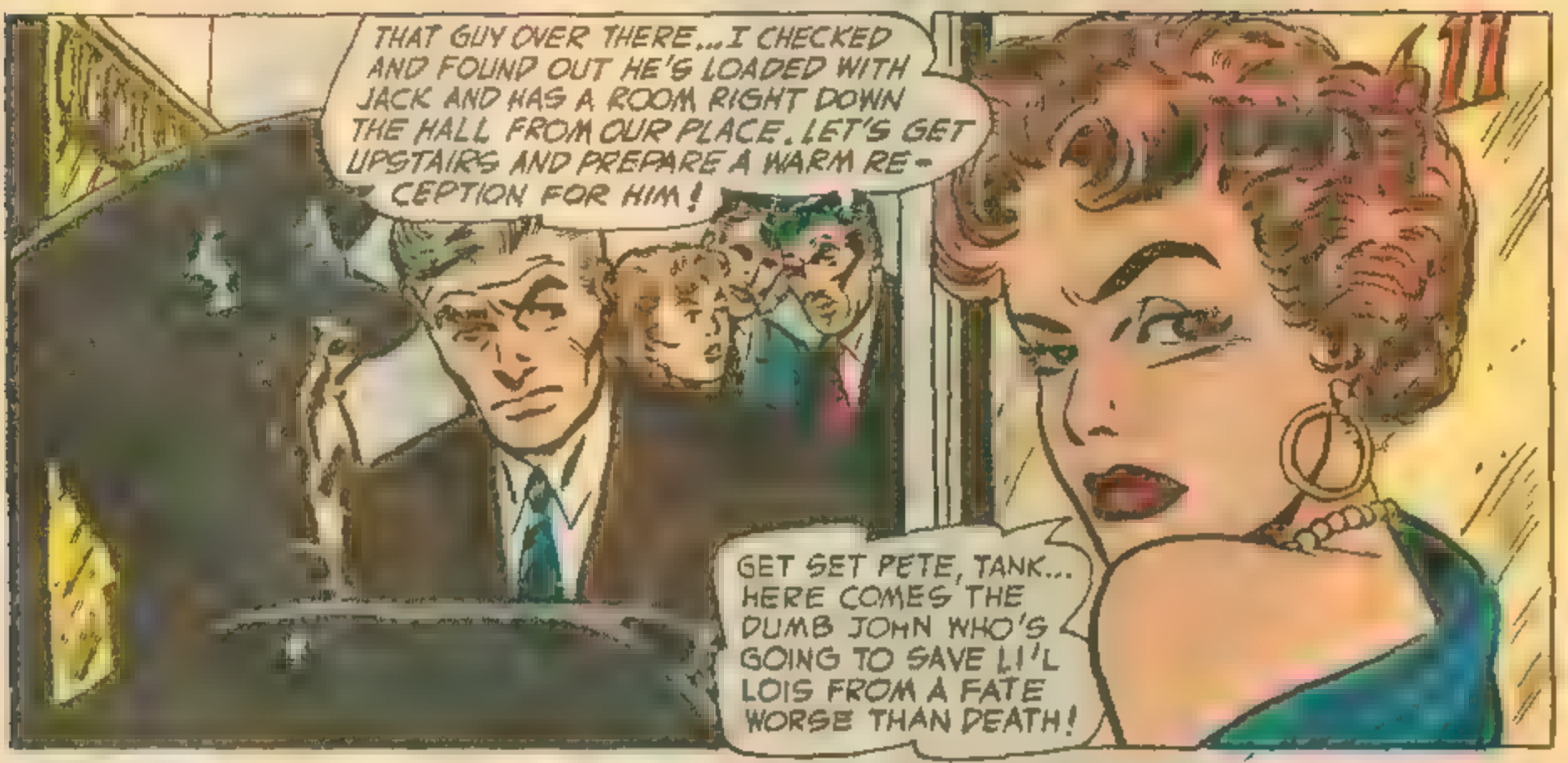
"You don't think I'm dumb," she remarked. "Especially since I get all the reward money. Why should Helen want to remain in a business that was losing money. I always listened on the extension when she spoke, and she gave herself away. She must be dumb to think you got her by the candy papers she left behind."

"Had to tell her that story," replied the detective. "Got to be certain nothing happens to my future wife. A clever dame, to get the reward — both in cash and in person."

The End

AS OLD, ALMOST, AS PHOTOGRAPHY ITSELF, ARE THE UNDERWORLD'S DEVIOUS METHODS FOR MAKING THE CAMERA A WEAPON AGAINST LAW-ABIDING SOCIETY. THE PUBLIC HAS LONG BEEN A HAPLESS TARGET FOR THE RACKETEER THREATENING EXPOSURE BY ILLICIT FILMS... HERE'S ONE WAY IN WHICH YOU MAY BE VICTIMIZED BY THE...
PHOTO FRAME-UP
THAT'S IT, STRANGER! SLUG 'IM AGAIN! THE HARDER YOU PUNCH, THE MORE YOU'RE GONNA SHELL OUT TO BUY BACK THESE FILMS!
FROLO & ELFI
AT THE START OF A WEEK-LONG CONVENTION RECENTLY, THERE WERE SEVERAL INTERESTED BYSTANDERS...
THE BOYS'RE BEGINNING TO WOOP IT UP...
LET 'EM GET HAPPY! THEY'RE GONNA PAY FOR IT... BUT GOOD!
I JUST RESERVED ROOM 611... RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A FLOOR FULL OF THESE CONVENTION GUYS!
OUR HEAD-QUARTERS, EH? "OPERATION FLASH BULB" OUGHTA BRING IN A NICE BANKROLL!

RACKET SQUAD


THAT GUY OVER THERE...I CHECKED AND FOUND OUT HE'S LOADED WITH JACK AND HAS A ROOM RIGHT DOWN THE HALL FROM OUR PLACE. LET'S GET UPSTAIRS AND PREPARE A WARM RE-CEPTION FOR HIM!
GET SET PETE, TANK... HERE COMES THE DUMB JOHN WHO'S GOING TO SAVE LI'L LOIS FROM A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH!

WHO'S THIS MUGG, LOIS? CLEAR OUTTA HERE, MISTER ...OR I'LL TAKE YOU APART PIECE BY PIECE!
YOU'VE HAD A SNOOT-FUL, STRANGER! YOU BETTER LEAVE THE YOUNG LADY ALONE OR I'LL ...

RACKET SQUAD

I-I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, SIR! THIS GUY WAS BECOMING REAL FRESH... IF YOU HADN'T COME ALONG TO RESCUE ME I WOULD'VE HAD TO CALL THE POLICE!
T-THAT SOUND... WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
WHIRR RRRRR!
IT'S A PRETTY LI'L SCENE, DOWN NICE AND CLEAR ON THE FILM IN THIS CAMERA! YOU OUGHTTA BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF, GERALD HARCOURT... BARGING IN LIKE THIS AND ASSAULTING A MAN!
HOW...HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME? W-WHAT'S THE RACKET, ANYWAY?
I GOT YOUR MONICKER FROM THE ROOM CLERK! AND THIS TABLEAU INVOLVES YOUR BEING INTIMATE WITH THIS MAN'S WIFE IN A HOTEL ROOM! BET YOUR FAMILY WOULD BE SHOCKED IF THEY SAW THESE FILMS...AND YOUR COMPANY'D BE KINDA SURPRISED TOO!
A FRAME-UP! G-GIVE ME THOSE FILMS!
NOT SO FAST, BUSTER...
I--I'LL HAVE YOU THROWN OUT OF ...UGHHH!
O-OF ALL THE LOUSY STUNTS...
CURSE IN FRONT OF A LADY, WILL YOU? I'M GONNA WASH YOUR MOUTH OUT WITH MY FIST!
NOW JUST HOLD YOUR BREATH, M.STER. . I'LL DO THE TALKING AND YOU'LL LISTEN!

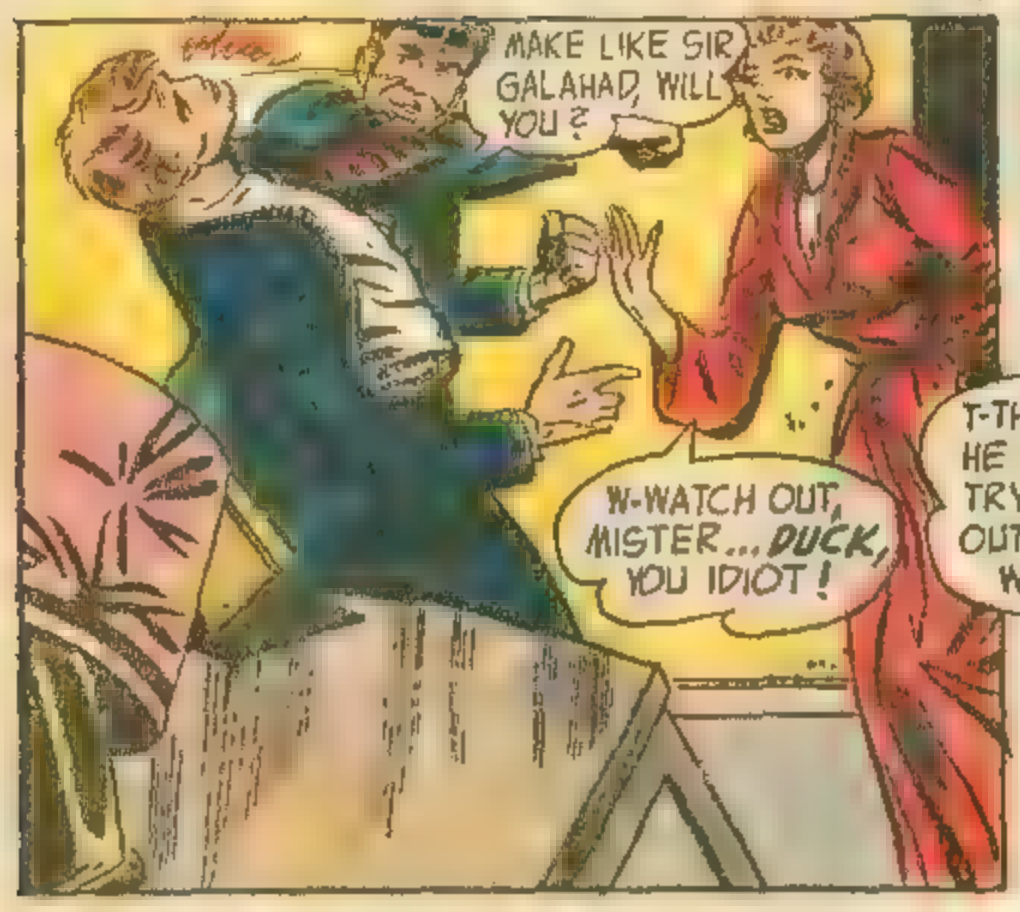
RACKET SQUAD

THESE FILMS ARE GONNA COST YOU $500, SEE? I HAPPEN TO KNOW YOU GOT THAT MUCH IN CASH, IN THE HOTEL SAFETY VAULT. YOU CHASE RIGHT DOWNSTAIRS AND TAKE IT OUT... I'LL WAIT JUST 10 MINUTES FOR YOU TO HAND IT OVER. GET CUTE AND CALL THE COPS... AND THIS FILM'S DELIVERED TO YOUR WIFE!
I... I'LL GET IT!
AFTER A FEW MINUTES, A THOROUGHLY FRIGHTENED VICTIM COMPLETED THE PAYOFF...
480... 90... 500! OKAY, FRIEND... YOU KEPT YOUR PART OF THE BARGAIN! GIVE 'IM THE FILM, TANK!
A GREATLY CHASTENED GERALD HARCOURT FINISHED HIS BUSINESS AT THE CONVENTION AND ON FRIDAY, PREPARED TO LEAVE TOWN...
HEY, FRIEND... I GOT SOMETHING HERE THAT'LL INTEREST YOU!
W-WHO... YOU AGAIN!
FOR AN OLD DISCARDED REEL OF FILM, MR HARCOURT... THESE ARE THE PICTURES I TOOK IN ROOM 611! YOU CAN HAVE 'EM FOR $300 CASH... OR YOUR WIFE GETS 'EM FREE!
I PAID YOU YOUR BLOOD MONEY ALREADY...
T-THAT'S RIGHT, INSPECTOR... THE STRONGARM GUY IS RIGHT OUTSIDE. SURE I'LL IDENTIFY THEM FOR YOU... WITH PLEASURE!
Y-YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE ME A DAY TO RAISE THE MONEY... I'LL HAVE TO CALL MY BANK IN PETERBORO...
YOU GOT ONE DAY, FRIEND! DON'T TRY TO RUN OUT 'CAUSE TANK'LL BE DOGGING YOUR FOOTSTEPS! C'MON, LOIS, LET'S BREEZE!

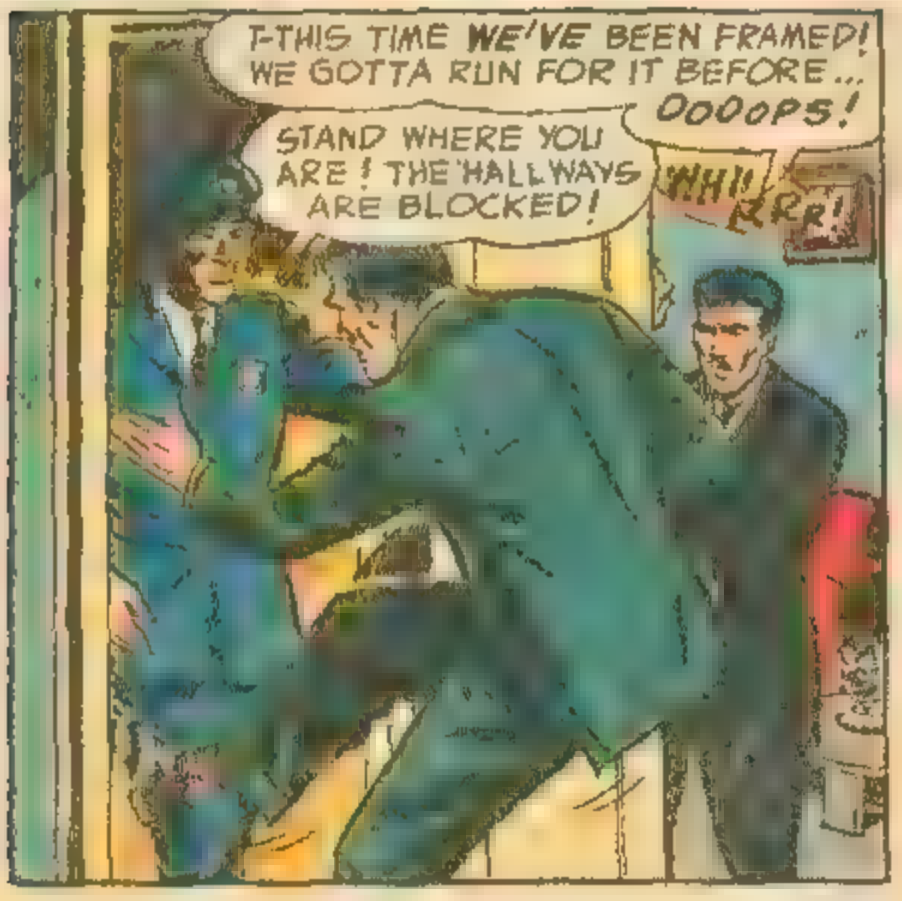
RACKET SQUAD

TOO OFTEN THE VICTIMS OF BLACKMAIL ARE BULLIED OUT OF THE SINGLE ACTION THAT CAN HELP THEM--A CALL TO THE RACKET SQUAD! MR. HARCOURT WAS ONE OF THE EXCEPTIONS!
DON'T TRY TO SHAKE HIM... WE'LL MEET YOU AT THE HOTEL AFTER YOU CHECK BACK IN!
THAT SAME AFTERNOON AT THE HOTEL CONCORD...
THE BIG GUY, CHIEF... HARCOURT'S INDICATING HIM! DO WE MOVE RIGHT IN?
AND HAVE THE GANG DENY THE WHOLE THING? NO.. WE'VE GOT TO CATCH 'EM IN THE ACT! I'VE GOT AN IDEA...
THERE'S ANOTHER CONVENTION HERE STARTING TONIGHT... HARCOURT'S BLACKMAILERS'LL BE WORKING IT! WE GET THE ROOM ADJACENT TO THEIRS, MAKE A SLIGHT ALTERATION... THEN YOU GO INTO ACTION!
WE MOVED INTO ROOM 613, AFTER TIPPING OFF THE ROOM CLERK THAT STEVE PRYOR WAS A WEALTHY OUT-OF-TOWNER CONFIDENT THAT WORD WOULD GET BACK TO THE FRAME-UP GANG, WE WAITED.
613
611
H-HELP ME, SIR! T-THERE'S A DRUNKEN MAN IN MY ROOM! HE FORCED HIS WAY IN AND I CAN'T GET RID OF HIM!
HUH? S-SURE, LADY..
H-HE'S FRIGHTENED ME TERRIBLY... THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO STOP HIM...
YOU BETTER BEAT IT, CHUM! THIS BABE BELONGS TO ME!

RACKET SQUAD



T-THE BOOB... HE DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO GET OUTTA THE WAY!
YOU GUMMED THINGS UP, HAM-HAND! GET THIS SLOB BACK ON HIS FEET AND GET RID OF HIM FAST!



SO YOU PLANNED TO MURDER THIS MAN AND STEAL HIS MONEY, EH? KIND OF A DUMB RACKET...
Y-YOU GOT US ALL WRONG, COPPER! WE'RE N-NOT KILLERS!

RACKET SQUAD

BLACKMAIL'S OUR RACKET...YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND! W-WE LURED THIS GUY INTO THE ROOM, LIKE WE DID ALL THE OTHERS! HE WAS SUPPOSED TO SOCK TANK AND GET COZY WITH LOIS... AND I PRETENDED TO GET THE WHOLE THING ON FILM! A FRAME-UP GIMMICK, SEE...

AS CAREFULLY STAGED AS THE SCENES YOU PRETENDED TO PHOTOGRAPH! OKAY, STEVE... YOU CAN GET UP NOW!

YOU CAN REMOVE THAT MICROPHONE WE INSTALLED IN THIS ROOM, SARGE... WE'VE GOT THE CONFESSION WE NEED! THEIR OWN WORDS AND MR. HARCOURT'S IDENTIFICATION WILL CONVINCE ANY COURT!

THANKS, CHIEF! I WAS BEGINNING TO GET STIFF!

YOU AIN'T ROPING ME THIS EASY!

CRASH!

ONE SHOT AND HE'LL...

DON'T USE YOUR GUN, STEVE... WE'LL NEED THIS CRUMB'S TESTIMONY TO SEND ALL THREE OF THEM UP THE RIVER!

I'VE GOT TO HEAD HIM OFF FAST! IF HE GETS TO THE ROOF I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO STOP HIM FROM JUMPING ACROSS TO THE NEXT BUILDING!

RACKET SQUAD

OH OH! LOOKS LIKE THAT MUGG WANTS TO MAKE A TARGET OF ME AGAIN... 27 STORIES ABOVE THE STREET!

THAT'S IT, MIKE... PUT YOUR ARM AROUND AL'S SHOULDER! IT'LL GIVE THE WHOLE GANG BACK AT THE FACTORY A BIG KICK...

H-HEY... WATCH OUT!

I-IS THIS A GAG OR SOMETHING? WE WERE TOLD WE COULD TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS UP ON THE HOTEL ROOF... SNAP PICTURES OF THE SKYLINE...

FINE WAY TO MAKE CONVENTIONEERS FEEL WELCO... UGHH!

G-GET OUTTA MY WAY, PUNK... OOOOF!

YOU'RE OKAY, MISTER... BUT THIS LUG ISN'T!

THAT HAY-MAKER YOU HUNG ON ME BECAUSE INSPECTOR O'MALLEY WANTED ME TO CROSS UP YOUR RACKET... IT NEEDS SQUARING UP!

INSTEAD OF ORDINARY CONVENTION PICTURES I GET A SNAP-SHOT OF AN HONEST TO GOODNESS THIEF!

AND THE ONLY PHOTO IN EXISTENCE OF RACKET SQUADMAN STEVE PRYOR WITH A BLACK EYE! A PERFECT SETUP FOR BLACKMAIL!

Jack Sparling ©

PAPER HANGERS OF DEATH

RACKETEERS ARE AS NUMEROLS AS BACTERIA--AND DECORATING ONE'S HOME WAS NO EXCEPTION. THE ACME PAPER-HANGING COMPANY, OUTWARDLY, APPEARED LEGITIMATE. ACTUALLY---IT WAS JUST A FRONT FOR A VICIOLS GANG OF THIEVES THAT MADE EXCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOODS THEIR TERRITORIES OF DEATH!

WATCH IT, JOEY. HERE COMES THE GUARD! HE'S GETTIN' MIGHTY NOSEY! I DON'T THINK I'M GONNA SHOO HIM AWAY THIS TIME!
THEN PLUG THE OLD GOAT! BUT MAKE SURE YOU USE THE SILENCER!
ED MOSKOWITZ

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HANGING WALLPAPER, I'VE BEEN WATCHIN' YOU B'RDS! YOU'RE MOVIN' ALL THE FURNITURE!
SURE, POP! THAT'S PART O' THE SERVICE!

YOU'RE A BUNCH OF THIEVES! I SAW YOU CART ALL THE STUFF INTO YOUR TRUCK OUTSIDE! STAND STILL! I'M CALLING THE POLICE! I'LL ---
GIVE IT TO HIM!

RACKET SQUAD

YA DUNCE! I TOLD YA TO USE THE SILENCER! NOW YOU DONE IT! YOU'LL WAKE UP EVERYONE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD! C'MON! WE'RE GETTIN' OUTTA HERE!

MOMENTS LATER...

LET'S GO! WE GOT WHAT WE CAME FOR!

VROOOOMM

THE J. WORTHINGTON TRASKS CAME TO SEE ME. THEY WERE THE OWNERS OF THE RANSACKED HOUSE. AND WHAT THEY TOLD ME WAS A STORY OF GULLIBILITY AND IGNORANCE...

WE FIRST HIRED THEM BECAUSE WE WERE GOING ON A SUMMER VACATION! WE DIDN'T THINK THEY WOULD ROB THE PLACE!

THEY SHOWED US BONA-FIDE CREDENTIALS. WE DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE CROOKS.

ALWAYS CHECK THE CREDENTIALS OF SUCH FIRMS WITH THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU AND THE POLICE! YOU WANTED THEIR SERVICES BECAUSE THEY WERE CHEAP, BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE VERY COSTLY.

BUT WHILE I ORDERED AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF THESE CROOKS, THE UNDERWORLD WAS ALREADY GOING AHEAD WITH IT'S OWN SCHEMES. IN ANOTHER FASHIONABLE NEIGHBORHOOD, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN...

I DON'T KNOW! IT SOUNDS REASONABLE.. BUT WE DON'T HAVE TOO MUCH MONEY!

OH, YOU WON'T HAVE TO PAY IT ALL AT ONCE, MISTER REYNOLDS!

WELL.. WE'RE NOT AS RICH AS THE OTHER RESIDENTS HERE. AND WE THOUGHT LIVING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD HERE WOULD BE PERFECT!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT WITH US, MA'AM. THE CHARGE WON'T BE MUCH--- ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS--- INCLUDING WALL DECORATIONS AND PAPER-HANGING!

RACKET SQUAD

THE ORDER TAKEN, THE ACME PAPER HANGING CO.--NOW CALLING ITSELF THE ACADEMY DEALERS --- TOOK OVER THE LARGE HOUSE, BUT AFTER TWO GRUELING DAYS OF DECORATING WORK...

I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT, MA'AM---UNLESS WE CAN MOVE THE FURNITURE TO OUR WAREHOUSE!

BUT I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU COULD DO THE ENTIRE DECORATING JOB FOR FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS!

YES--BUT REMEMBER--- THAT WAS ONLY AN ESTIMATE! WE CAN DO A ***BETTER*** JOB IF YOU'LL LET US CARRY THE FURNITURE OUT OF HERE FOR A FEW DAYS! MY MEN CAN'T GET THE PAPER ON THE WALL THE WAY YOU WANT IT!

BUT THAT MEANS WE GOT TO CALL IN A MOVER! WE JUST CAN'T AFFORD ALL THAT MONEY! THIS IS ALL WE HAVE!

DON'T WORRY. WE ALSO HAVE A MOVING SERVICE COMPARATIVELY FREE OF CHARGE. FIFTY DOLLARS MORE AND WE'LL MOVE YOUR FURNITURE AND GUARANTEE TO RETURN IT LATER UNHARMED.

I DON'T KNOW--

HERE'S OUR BONDED SEAL. WE'RE BONDED BY FOUR BANKS IN THE CITY. WE'RE IN BUSINESS FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS! WHAT BETTER GUARANTEE CAN YOU HAVE?

IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO OUR FURNISHINGS, WE'D BE BUSTED! THEY'RE THE ONLY GOOD THINGS WE HAVE.

DON'T YOU WORRY, MISTER REYNOLDS! WE'LL DO A PERFECT JOB! WE AIM TO PLEASE! WE WANT YOU TO TELL OTHERS SO THAT WE'LL HAVE MORE BUSINESS! NOW JUST GIVE US YOUR KEYS--AND LEAVE THE HOUSE TO US A FEW DAYS! YOU'LL SEE HOW SATISFIED YOU'LL BE!

OKAY. BUT ONLY FOR A FEW DAYS!

WHICH WAS ALL THE TIME THE CROOKS NEEDED TO CART OFF EVERY PIECE OF FURNITURE IN THE PLACE!

HURRY! GET THAT STUFF INSIDE! SNAP IT UP!

YEAH! YEAH! DON'T RUSH ME! WE STILL GOT A COUPLE O' HOURS LEFT!

RACKET SQUAD

THAT'S WHAT **YOU** THINK, PAL! WE GOTTA BE VANISHED COMPLETELY, --UNDERSTAND? WHEN THESE SUCKERS COME BACK AND FIND EVERYTHING GONE THEY'RE GONNA RAISE A STINK!

WHAT A HAUL! I SURE GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, JOEY! YOU GOT BRAINS!

NAW! I JUST GOT GUTS, THAT'S ALL! I OFFER THESE SUCKERS A SERVICE THAT'S PRACTICALLY **HALF** THE PRICE OF LEGITIMATE HAULERS AND DECORATORS ..THEN WHEN THESE SUCKERS TRY TO GET SOMETHING FER NOTHING WE **CLEAN** 'EM OUT LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL! HA, HA...

BUT A SMALL HITCH DEVELOPED IN THE CROOK'S PLANS. IN A WARE-HOUSE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...

WHADDA YA MEAN THIS STUFF AIN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO FENCE? WE GOT OVER **FIVE GRAND** WORTH O' GOODS INSIDE!

THAT'S WHAT I SAID JOEY! IT'S EITHER ONE GRAND FER THE ENTIRE LOT---OR **NUTHIN'**!

LISTEN, YOU! I'M NOT GONNA BE RAILROADED OUTTA MY SHARE! WHAT'S THE BEEF? WHY THE SUDDEN SHAKEDOWN?

H-HONEST, JOEY ... IT'S NOT MY FAULT! BUT SPIKE DOLAN AND HIS CROWD ARE IN YOUR RACKET, TOO! THEY TOLD ME TO QUOTE THEM FIGURES! THEY'LL **KILL** ME IF I GIVE YA MORE!

THEY GOT A HALF INTEREST IN THIS BUSINESS! AND THEY ALSO RUN YOUR TYPE OF RACKET! SO THEY COLLECT FROM BOTH ENDS! THEY DON'T WANT NO OTHER OUTFIT SQUEEZIN' IN ON 'EM!

YEAH? WELL-- THAT'S JUST TOO BAD-- 'CAUSE WE'RE GONNA FIX THE R WAGON FOR GOOD! C'MON, BOYS!

MEANWHILE ANOTHER GANG OF MEN [illegible] AND [illegible] GANG [illegible] BUSY [illegible] WORKING A SIMILAR RACKET JOB...

GET THIS CRATE LOADED, BOYS! IT'LL BE LIGHT PRETTY SOON! WE DON'T WANNA GET CAUGHT HERE!

WHAT A RACKET! WE MADE ENOUGH IN ONE NIGHT TO LAST US A **YEAR**!

RACKET SQUAD

OKAY! ALL CLEAR! OPEN ER UP!

CHECK!

BUT NO SOONER HAD THEY REACHED THE HIGHWAY...

TAKE A GANDER, SPIKE! THAT CAD BACK THERE'S FOLLOWIN US!

YOU'RE NUTS, WILSON! KEEP YER EYES PEELED AHEAD C'YA! YOU'RE GETTIN' TOO JUMPY LATELY!

YEAH? THEN WHY ARE THOSE JOKERS TRYIN' TO FORCE US OFF THE ROAD?

I'LL FIX 'EM! OPEN UP WITH YOUR DICERS, BOYS! IT LOOKS LIKE JOEY GARSON'S LOAD!

RRRRRRRR

THEY'RE HITTIN' US TOO HARD, SPIKE! **LOOK OUT!** WE'RE GONNA CRASH!

CRASH

NAAAAH!

AHHHHH

CRASH

A SOLITARY FIGURE CRAWLED OUT OF THE FLAMING WRECKAGE--FLESH HANGING FROM HIS BONES, FACE SEARED---GUN IN HAND SMOKING FROM THE HEAT!

DOLAN DID THIS TO ME! HE DID...IT! I GOTTA FIX HIM! I GOTTA... SHOW HIM! **SHOW HIM---!**

RACKET SQUAD

NO! DON'T DO IT, JOEY! FER HEAVEN'S SAKE! PLEASE--! I'M DYING! HELP ME! I DIDN'T MEAN TO MUSCLE IN! GET ME OUTTA HERE!
SURE, SPIKE! I'LL GET YA OUT! I'M GONNA KILL YA, SPIKE... KILL YA!
SO LONG, RAT! SO LONG!
AIEEEEEEEE
BANG
BANG
AND IT WAS AT THIS POINT THAT WE FOUND JOEY GARSON--GUN IN HAND--AN ANIMAL CAUGHT AT BAY!
THROW DOWN YOUR GUN --AND COME UP HERE WITH YOUR HANDS UP, JOEY! WE'LL GIVE YOU THIRTY SECONDS!
WHA--T?
YA DIRTY COPPERS! EVERYTHIN' WOULD HAVE GONE RIGHT--IF DOLAN AN' HIS BOYS HADN'T GOT GREEDY! YOU'RE NOT TAKIN' ME ALIVE! NO! NO!
BANG BANG
GARSON'S MIND HAS SNAPPED, SIR! IT'S NO USE!
ALL RIGHT MEN! WE HAVE NO CHOICE! OPEN FIRE!
URGHHH
RATATATATAT
AND SOME-TIME LATER, WHEN ALL THE REPORTS HAD BEEN WRITTEN AND ALL THE CRIME NOTICES FILED, I WATCHED SPIKE DOLAN, JOEY GARSON AND THEIR RESPECTIVE GANGS EAT THE HARD WAY...
FEET FIRST, SIR! THAT'S THE WAY THEY ALWAYS SEEM TO LEAVE US!
IT'S A PITY THEY NEVER LEARN THAT THE RACKETS GIVE THEM ONLY ONE WAY OUT! --A ONE-WAY TICKET TO THE GRAVE!
PUBLIC MORGUE
The End

Now! The Amazing Facts about

BALDNESS

...AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

The following facts are brought to the attention of the public because of a widespread belief that nothing can be done about hair loss. This belief has no basis in medical fact. Worse, it has condemned many men and women to needless baldness by their neglect to treat certain accepted causes of hair loss.

There are six principal types of hair loss, or *alopecia,* as it is known in medical terms:

1. Alopecia from diseases of the scalp
2. Alopecia from other diseases or from an improper functioning of the body
3. Alopecia of the aged (senile baldness)
4. Alopecia areata (loss of hair in patches)
5. Alopecia of the young (premature baldness)
6. Alopecia at birth (congenital baldness)

Senile, premature and congenital alopecia cannot be helped by anything now known to modern science. Alopecia from improper functioning of the body requires the advice and treatment of your family physician.

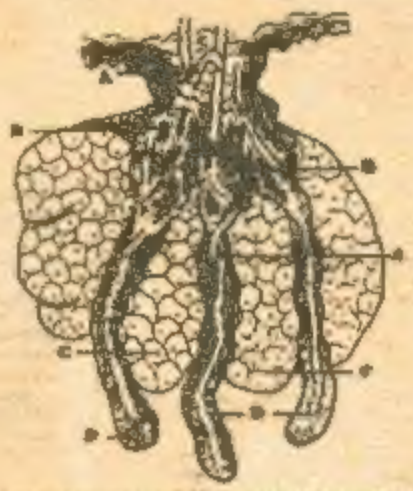
BUT MANY MEDICAL AUTHORITIES NOW BELIEVE A SPECIFIC SCALP DISEASE IS THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF HAIR LOSS.

This disease is called Seborrhea and can be broadly classified into two clinical forms with the following symptoms:

1. *DRY SEBORRHEA:* The hair is dry, lifeless, and without gloss. A dry flaky dandruff is usually present with accompanying itchiness. Hair loss is considerable and increases with the progress of this disease.

2. *OILY SEBORRHEA:* The hair and scalp are oily and greasy. The hair is slightly sticky to the touch and has a tendency to mat together. Dandruff takes the form of head scales. Scalp is usually itchy. Hair loss is severe with baldness as the end result.

Many doctors agree that to NEGLECT these symptoms of DRY and OILY SEBORRHEA is to INVITE BALDNESS.



DESTRUCTION OF HAIR FOLLICLES Caused By Seborrhea

A — Dead hairs; B — Hair-destroying bacteria; C — Hypertrophied sebaceous glands; D — Atrophic follicles.

Seborrhea is believed to be caused by three germ organisms — staphylococcus albus, pityrosporum ovale, and acnes bacillus.

These germs attack the sebaceous gland causing an abnormal working of this fat gland. The hair follicle, completely surrounded by the enlarged diseased sebaceous gland, then begins to atrophy. The hair produced becomes smaller and smaller until the hair follicle dies. Baldness is the inevitable result. (See illustration.)

But seborrhea can be controlled, particularly in its early stages. The three germ organisms believed to cause seborrhea, can and should be eliminated before they destroy your normal hair growth.

A post-war development, Comate Medicinal Formula kills these three germ organisms on contact. Proof of Comate's germ-killing properties has been demonstrated in laboratory tests recently conducted by one of the leading testing laboratories in America. (Complete report on file and copies are available on request.)

When used as directed, Comate Medicinal Formula controls seborrhea—stimulates the flow of blood to the scalp—helps stop scalp itch and burn—improves the appearance of your hair and scalp—helps STOP HAIR LOSS due to seborrhea. Your hair looks more attractive and alive.

You may safely follow the example of thousands who first were skeptical, then curious, and finally decided to avail themselves of Comate Medicinal Formula.

A Few of the Many Grateful Expressions By Users of Comate Medicinal Formula

"My hair was coming out for years and I tried everything. Nothing stopped it until I tried Comate. Now my hair has stopped coming out. It looks so much thicker. My friends have noticed my hair and they all say it looks so much better." —Mrs. R.E.J., Stevenson, Ala.

"Your hair formula got rid of my dandruff, my head does not itch any more. I think it is the best of all of the formulas I have used." —E.E., Hamilton, Ohio.

"Your formula is everything you claim it to be and the first 10 days trial freed me of a very bad case of dry seborrhea." —J.E.M., Long Beach, Calif.

"I do want to say that just within five days I have obtained a great improvement in my hair. I do want to thank you and the Comate Laboratories for producing such a wonderful and amazing formula."—M.M., Johnstown, Pa.

"I have found almost instant relief. My itching has stopped with one application."—J.N., Stockton, Calif.

"My hair looks thicker, not falling out like it used to. Will not be without Comate in the house."—R.W., Lonsdale, R. I.

"I haven't had any trouble with dandruff since I started using Comate."—L.W.W., Galveston, Tex.

"This formula is everything if not more than you say it is. I am very happy with what it's doing for my hair." —T.J., Las Cruces, New Mexico

"I find it stops the itch and retards the hair fall. I am thankful for the help it has given me in regard to the terrible itchiness."—R.B.L., Philadelphia, Pa.

"The bottle of Comate I got from you has done my hair so much good. My hair has been coming out and breaking off for about 21 years. It has improved so much." —Mrs. J.E., Lisbon, Ga.

Today these benefits are available to you just as they were to these sincere men and women when they first read about Comate. If your hair is thinning, over-dry or over-oily—if you are troubled with dandruff with increasing hair loss—you may well be guided by the laboratory tests and the experience of thousands of grateful men and women.

Remember, if your hair loss is due to Seborrhea, Comate CAN and MUST help you. If it is due to causes beyond the reach of Comate Medicinal Formula, you have nothing to lose because our GUARANTY POLICY assures the return of your money unless delighted. So why delay when that delay may cause irreparable damage to your hair and scalp. Just mail the coupon below.

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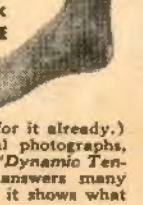

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